

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 16, 17, 19-22, and 24 are allowed and claim 8 is allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19-22, and 24-29 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-14, and 25-28 presently stand rejected. Claims 1, 10, 13, and 25 are amended herein. Claim 8 is hereby cancelled without prejudice. Dependent claim 29 is newly presented. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12, 25, and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar et al. (US Patent Publication 2004/0028040 A1) in view of Shadmon et al. (US Patent Publication 2003/0204515 A1) and Rangarajan et al. (US Patent Publication 2004/0008634 A1).

Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar et al. in view of Shadmon et al. and Rangarajan et al., and further in view of Du et al. (US 5,694,591).

Claims 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar et al. in view of Shadmon et al., Rangarajan et al., and Mathew et al. (US Patent Publication 2004/0006639 A1).

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar et al. in view of Shadmon et al. and Rangarajan et al. as applied to claim 25 above, and further in view of Choe (US Patent Publication 2002/0118682 A1).

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Amended independent claim 1 now includes subject matter of dependent claim 8 (now cancelled) deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent claim 1 now includes allowable subject matter.

Amended independent claim 10 now includes subject matter of dependent claim 8 (now cancelled) deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent claim 10 now includes allowable subject matter.

Amended independent claim 13 now includes subject matter of dependent claim 8 (now cancelled) deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent claim 13 now includes allowable subject matter.

Amended independent claim 25 now includes subject matter of dependent claim 8 (now cancelled) deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent claim 25 now includes allowable subject matter.

Consequently, the combination of cite prior art references fails to teach or suggest all elements of claims 1, 10, 13, 16, and 25, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 10, 13, 16, and 25 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are nonobvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 rejections of the dependent claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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